

## Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 061247Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5536

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0878

EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG, MILI

SUBJECT: EGYPT-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS AND ISRAELI SINAI DEFENSES

REF: A) USDAO TEL AVIV 041331Z JAN 75

B) TEL AVIV 0181

C) TEL AVIV 0557

1. WE WISH TO CALL DEPT'S ATTENTION TO REF USDAO MESSAGE WHICH PROVIDES FURTHER DETAILED INFO ON THE LOCATION, TYPE AND COST OF EXISTING ISRAELI SINAI AND GOLAN DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. THIS INFO SUPPORTS EARLIER REPORTS ABOUT VERY LARGE SUMS SPEND ON IDF FORTIFICATION. THE DAO MESSAGE ALSO REPORTS AN IDF OFFICER STATEMENT THAT COST OF CONSTRUCTING NEW LINE OF FORTIFICATIONS, IF PRESENT ONE ALTERED (BECAUSE OF TALKS WITH EGYPTIANS), WOULD BE ABOUT IL 2 BILLION (DOLS 333 MILLION).

2. IN ADDITION TO IMPLICATION THAT US MAY BE EXPECTED TO PICK UP THE TAB FOR CONSTRUCTION COSTS IF PRESENT DEFENSIVE POSITIONS HAVE TO BE MOVED, REVIEW OF THE FACTS AS REPORTED IN DAO MESSAGE MAY ALSO LEND WEIGHT TO CONCLUSIONS OF BBC CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ELKINS (REF B) THAT GOI IS PLANNING TO BUILD A TIME FACTOR INTO ANY NEW WITHDRAWAL ARRANGEMENT, I.E., IDF WOULD WITHDRAW TO NEW LINE ONLY AFTER SUFFICIENT TIME TO ALLOW DESTRUCTION OR DISMANTLING OF OLD LINE AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ONE.

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3. IF THIS PROVES TO BE CASE, FOLLOWING MAY BE OF INTERESTS:

A. PRESENT GOLAN DEFENSIVE LINE WAS COMPLETED IN ABOUT FIVE MONTHS, SINAI LINE, 11 MONTHS AFTER DISENGAGEMENT, IS STILL NOT COMPLETE (REF C).

B. DATT MAKES ROUGH ESTIMATE THAT DEPENDING ON ACTUAL LOCATION OF NEW SINAI LINE, HOW MUCH OF OLD LINE IS INCLUDED IN NEW ONE, WHETHER SURRENDERED AREA IS DEMILITARIZED, AVAILABILITY OF US SUPPLIES OF ESSENTIAL MINES AND OTHER EQUIP TO ISRAEL, ETC., NEW LINE COULD TAKE FROM TWO (BEST CASE) TO NINE MONTHS TO CONSTRUCT. IF ISRAELI TERRITORIAL WITHDRAWAL WERE TO INCLUDE NOT ONLY PASSES AND OIL FIELDS BUT ALSO CAMPS AND FACILITIES AT BALUZA, TASSA, MAYBE SOME OF BIR GIFAFA, AND RAS SUDAR, WHOLE INFRASTRUCTURE OF REGION WOULD BE AFFECTED AND IDF MIGHT DEMAND 18-24 MONTHS BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION.

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## Message Attributes

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